

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A device for use in delivering articles in conjunction with one or more encoders and with a plurality of transceivers along a delivery route, the transceivers configured to process the information stored in the transponder by an encoder to both sort and route the articles during delivery, comprising:

a passive portable, disposable electromagnetic transponder formed on a flexible substrate and configured to be applied to the article and further configured to store and reflect information regarding at least delivery cost and routing information in response to electromagnetic signals ~~from a plurality of transceivers along a delivery route, the transceivers configured to process the information stored in the transponder to sort, route, or both sort and route the articles during delivery~~ received from the encoder and to communicate the stored information to the transceivers upon query therefrom as control signals to control sorting and routing of the articles without reference to a database linked to the transceivers.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) A system for use in routing a deliverable, the system comprising a passive radio-frequency label adapted to be attached to the deliverable and configured to respond to electromagnetic signals from a plurality of transceivers along a delivery route to ~~reflect~~ communicate control signals stored in the deliverable regarding the location of the deliverable for controlling routing of the deliverable, the plurality of transceivers configured to process the control signals and route the deliverable to a desired location without reference to a linked database.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) A system for routing a deliverable, the system comprising:

a plurality of routing devices, at least one passive, portable, flexible transponder label configured for attachment to the deliverable and configured to store routing information of the deliverable, and a plurality of transceivers along a delivery route associated with the routing devices for controlling the sorting and routing of the deliverable during delivery in response to electromagnetic signals reflected from the label and without reference to a linked database to the transceivers, the signals representing the stored information.

6. (Original) The system of claim 5, wherein each of the plurality of transceivers is associated with a predetermined routing device.

7. (Original) The system of claim 5, further comprising at least one encoding device configured to code the at least one label with information regarding at least one from among a delivery destination, a delivery date, a delivery route, information regarding a sender, information regarding a receiver, information regarding the deliverable, and information regarding delivery cost.

8. (Currently Amended) A system for routing and tracking remote assets, comprising: a plurality of passive transponders, each transponder associated with a respective asset; a plurality of transceivers along a delivery route configured to send signals to the transponder and to receive control signals therefrom regarding delivery information of the associated assets stored in the transponder; a routing device associated with the at least one transceiver to receive control and command signals via the transceiver and to sort and route the assets during delivery without reference to a linked database; and an encoder configured to transmit ~~programming control~~ signals to the transponder for storage in the transponder.

9. (Original) The system of claim 8, wherein each at least one transceiver is integrally formed with the respective routing device.

10. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 8, wherein each transceiver is configured to communicate with a predetermined group of transponders such that remote assets associated with the predetermined group of transponders are sorted and routed to a predetermined delivery path and all other remote assets are routed to a default path.

11. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 8, further comprising a tracking device for communicating with the transceivers to track the associated remote asset.

12. (Currently Amended) A method of routing and tracking deliverables, comprising: providing a plurality of flexible, passive, programmable, portable electromagnetic transponders, each transponder associated with a respective deliverable and configured to store routing information; issuing interrogation signals from a transceiver coupled to a routing device along a delivery path to power the transponder and initiate communication of the routing information as control signals to the transceiver; receiving at the transceiver ~~a the control signal~~ signals from the transponder in response to the interrogation signals; and controlling the routing device with the control signal to route the deliverable along the delivery path without reference to a database by the transceiver and routing device.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising an initial step of encoding the transponder with information for use in generating control signals.

14. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising purchasing at least one transponder and encoding the transponder with a purchase price.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, further comprising communicating via a device for tracking the location of deliverables with each transceiver to track a location of deliverables.